on the Commercial Director Sir, the Minister has already said that he is not responsible for the flight schedule. He should give an assurance that if he finds some negligence on the part of the Chairman or the Commercial Director, then he will take action against him.

श्री महेश्वर सिंह महोदय, इस पर चर्चा होनी चाहिए।

MR. CHAIRMAN: This question is about the flight schedule for the North-East. This does not flow from this question.

Press Releases by PIB

*762. SHRI PRAGADA KOTAIAH:

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR:†

Will the MNISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTNG be pleased to state:

(a) how many Press releases were issued by the Press Information Bureau during the last year; and

(b) what is the mechanism to monitor the follow up action after the Press releases are issued?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO):: (a) The Press Information Bureau issued about 38,500 Press releases to the media during the year 1994.

(b) The press releases are following up by obtaininng press clipping and supplying them to the Ministry/Department concerned. Features|articles released by PIB are also selectively followed up.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, the Prime Minister has, on a number of occasions in this House as well as outside, said that our achievements are many and unparalleled, but they are not properly projected. This is a fact. The PIB has issued, as the Minister has said, 38,500 press releases in one year, but still the country knows little about our Government's achievements. So, my first supplementary is since by holding press conferences, by giving failed, what new approach will the PIB venture upon to fulfil its objectives?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the PIB does not just stop after issuing these press releases. It takes follow-up action by holding press conferences, by giving background material and also taking press parties on conducted tours of various installations, institutions and organises workshops to highlight the achievements of the Government. But, if the hon. Member feels that it is not sufficient, then we are open to suggestions We would like to improve it and make it more effective than what we are doing. But, Sir, if there is any new strategy to be adopted, I am open to suggestions.

DR. SHRIKANT RAMCHANDRA JICHKAR: Sir, I understand the difficulties of the PIB. The success of the PIB will depend upon how the various other Ministries will co-operate with it. Presently, the PIB is like a post office, what the other Ministries feed the PIB with, the PIB forwards it to the Press. Now, in addition to this, the other Ministries have their own public relations office. That is another difficulty. The PIB has no teeth. In view of this, would the Government consider introducing professionalism in the PIB? Secondly, would the Government consider attaching the PIB to the Prime Minister's office or the Home Minister's office for its more effective functioning?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: It is a very good suggestion and we would definitelp like to examine it.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Sir, the hon. Minister has said that 38,500 Press Notes were issued by the PIB. But he has not mentioned, how many of them were published. Sir, the PIB is suffering from many deficiencies.

†The Question was actually asked on the floor of the House by Dr. Shrikant Ramchandara Jichkar.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Right from your time.

SHRI P. UPENDRA: Yes, That is why I am asking this question. I made a special study on that. One thing is that the Press Notes are released so late to the Regional Offices that by that time they lose their topicality and nobody publishes them. They go into the waste-paper basket. There are no fax machines. At least, in this modern world, they could fax it from Delhi. That is not done. They have no fax machines. There is no mobility at the local offices even to send the Press Notes to the various newspapers. There is no rapport with the local Press. Even when the I&B Minister goes there, they cannot get the news published. Such is the situation there. Now the time has come to relew the entire organisational set-up of the PIB because I do not think it is serving any purpose. Now, Communication is fast. There is 'Slow Dictation' on the TV and the radio. Most of the small newspapers pick up news from there. The PIB Press Notes—most of them—are going waste. Will the Minister examine the whole functioning of the PIB? He should make some arrangement to strengthen the set up in the metropolitan cities where it can be best used. Communication should be fast. He should also review the functioning of the PIB offices in the small towns, in various parts of the country. There is no arrangement for issuing Press Notes in the regional languages because they do not have translators in the local officies. They are all issued in the English language. Therefore, they are going waste. Will he consider these two aspects and make a thorough review of the functioning of the PIB?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, reviewing a continuous exercise. But as it comes from the hon. Member who was the former Minister of this Ministry we shall definitely make a special review. It would interest him to note that in the last Consultaive Committee meeting of this Ministry which was held only last week, the PIB was the topic of discussion. We have the view of the hon. Members. A Sub-Committee under the Chairman of Sari Ram Vilas Paswan is also looking into, it. As far as regional Press Releases are concerned, they are issued in the regional languages as well as in the English language. They are translators in most of the cases.

श्री रामजी लाल : सभापति महोदय, मैं आपके माध्यम से सूचना और प्रसारण मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहूंगा जैसा उन्होंने प्रश्न के "ख" भाग में यह कहा है कि प्रेस कतरन प्राप्त करने और उन्हें संबंधित मंत्रालय/विभाग को भेजने के माध्यम से प्रेस विज्ञप्तियों का अनुवर्तन किया जाता है, तो क्या पी.आई.बी. प्रेस रिलीज से पहले किसी की मंजूरी लेती है ? यदि हां, तो फालोअप एक्शन के बावजूद इन प्रेस रिलीज के द्वारा रिजल्ट क्यों एचीव नहीं होते ? और, क्या पी.आई. बी. को दिए हुए आईटम का कोई उद्देश्य और आधार नहीं होता ? इस लक्ष्य को पाने के लिए क्या कार्यवाही कर रहे हैं ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: The PIB is the nodal agency of the Government of India for informing the people about Government's policies, programmes and activities. It is not there to prevent other news items from getting into the Press. That is not the role of the PIB and neither does it have the machinery for preventing anything. Therefore, in the assigned role, it releases, as I had mentioned earlier, Press Releases, background notes and other material in the regional languages as well as in English, Urdu and Hindi through the Regional Offices to the regional papers. But there is always room for improvement and we are open to suggestions. As I said, there is a Sub-Committee of the Information and Broadcasting Ministry and there is also a Consultative Committee which is looking into it. But we will be open to suggestions.

श्रीमती सरला माहेश्वरी : माननीय सभापति महोदय, पी. आर. वी. के अपनी सम-सामयिकता और प्रासंगिकता,

दोनों ही खो दी जहें । पी.आर.बी. का कुल लक्ष्य सरकार की उपलब्धियों और सरकार की कारवाइयों के बारे में जनता को सूचित करना है, लेकिन, अध्यक्ष महोदय, हालत यह है कि तात्कालिक समाचार होते हैं, जिनकी उसी समय पहुंचने की जरूरत होती है, पी.आर.बी. के द्वारा वह समाचार हो सरकुलेट होने का अखबारों को तो वह 4 दिन बाद, 10 दिन बाद पहुंचते हैं । तो जब तमाम अत्याधूनिक उपायों से काम हो रहा है, उस समय पी.आर.बी. अगर 18वीं या 19वीं सदी के यंत्रों जको लेकर काम कर रही है तो ऐसी पी.आर.बी. की क्या आवश्यकता है ?

इसलिए मै माननीय मंत्री जी से जानना चाहती हूं कि पी.आई.बी. पर आप तात्कालिक कौन से दबाव महसूस कर रहे हैं ? क्या उन दबावों का आपने अध्ययन किया है ? उन दबावों का विस्तृत अध्ययन करके ही आप बी.आई.बी. को समचीन बना सकते हैं । तो मेरा आपसे यह जानना है कि पी.आई.बी. पर कौन से दबाव पड़ रहे हैं तथा उसको अत्याधुनिक बनाने के लिए आप क्या काम कर रहे हैं तथा सरकार के सामने समय-समय पर जो संकट आते हैं–साम्प्रदायिकता का संकट आता है, धर्मांधता का संकट आता है–उन विशेष विषयों पर आपने हमारी जनता को कौन सी विशेष सामग्री मुहैया की है, यह कृपया बताएं ?

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the first and foremost pressure which the PIB is suffering from is the pressure of constraint of resources. But, modernisation is going on. Sir, most of the State Capitals have been issued computers. Some of them have been fitted and some of them are in the process of being fitted. Therefore, it is not a fact that we are not modernising. Sir, the computers and photo-receiving equipment are being set up in the Regional Offices. At the moment, 8,000 of them are functioning and the others will be functioning very soon. FAX machines are also available in most of the Offices. So, Sir, we are modernising. Sir, the only pressure is of funds and constraint of resources.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला : माननीय अध्यक्ष महोदय, आपके माध्यम से म माननीय मंत्री जी से यह कहना चाहता हूं कि उन्होंने 23 मई को इस पूरे सदन को गुमराह करने की कोशिश की है । मेरा महत्वपूर्ण प्रश्न यह था, पूरे देश में कौन से पापुलर सीरियल हैं और उनसे रिवेन्यू या इन्कम कितनी होती है, तो मंत्री जी ने यह बताया कि 12 करोड़ की इन्कम है और... (**व्यवधान**)

SHRI SURESH KALMADI: It does not relate to the PIB.

श्री कनकसिंह मोहनसिंह मंगरोला : और सैकिंड में श्री शारदा महन्ती के जवाब में उन्होंने 28 करोड़ की इन्कम बताई है । तो मैं माननीय मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहता हूं कि इन दोनों आंकड़ों में फर्क क्यो है और इसकी वजह क्या है ? मेरे पास आंकड़े पड़े हैं ।

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the question relates to the PIB and not the Serials of Doordarshan.

MR. CHAIRMAN: Dr. Bapu Kaldate. ...(*Interruptions*).... Dr. Kaldate, are you ready?

DR. BAPU KALDATE: I am here, Sir. I am ever ready.

सभापति महोदय, आप जानते हैं कि (**व्यवधान**)

श्री प्रमोद महाजन : आप न्यूज के बारे में पूछो ।

डा. बापू कालदाते : नहीं, बिल्कुल नहीं, मैं पी.आई.बी. के बारे में पूछ रहा हूं । आपने कहा है कि 38,500 प्रैस नोट्स आपने निकाले और आप जानते हैं कि अपने देश में जो प्रादेशिक भाषाएं हैं उनका भी एक विशेष महत्व है और जहां तक संसद का सवाल है, हमने 20 भाषाएं मान्यता प्राप्त भाषाएं कही हैं । तो मैं आपसे यह सीधा सवाल पूछ रहा हूं कि ये 38,500 या जो कुछ भी आपके प्रैस बुलेटिन निकले हैं, इनमें आप प्रादेशिक भाषाओं को ध्यान में रखते हुए क्या इम्फेसिस दे रहे हैं और आज तक जो

इतने बुलेटिन निकले है, इनमें अंग्रेजी या अन्य भाषाओं के कितने प्रैस नोट आपने निकाले हैं ? अन्य भाषाओं का ब्यौरा मुझे चाहिए, अगर आप दे सकें तो मुझ बड़ी खुशी होगी।

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, the releases from P.I.B. headquarters in English were 5,873, Hindi—3,715, Urdu—2,962. Apart from that, from the regional branches there 25,568. Hindi—4,532, Urdu—3460, Punjabi — 1,439; Gujarati—359, Marathi—1127, Talugu—500, Assamese—17, Oriya—129, Bengali—276, Kannada—307, Malayalum—2,665; Sindhi—54 and Tamil—2,058.

SHRI MOHAMMED AFZAL: Do you release any Press note in Sanskrit? There is nothing in Sanskrit.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: I don't have the figures.

SHRI SURINDER KUMAR SINGLA: Sir, from the discussions two facts are not very clear. One, as the hon. colleague, Dr. Jichkar said, the Government had historic, unprecedented and unparalled achievements. The second point is, as the hon. Minister has agreed, the Indian people have a right to information on what is happening in the Government. There are 38,500 Press Releases. The first part of my question is how many Press Releases are actually used by the official media of Doordarshan and AIR. On an average there are 100 releases news everyday and you can multiply it, for a year. Are Doordarshan and Radio using them? If they are not, what steps are likely to be taken by the hon. Minister in terms of using official media like Doordarshan and A.I.R. to highlight the achievements of the Government? Thank you.

SHRI K. P. SINGH DEO: Sir, it will be difficult to give percentage of how much was used by the Press or by A.I.R. and Doordarshan. Invariably it is the P.I.B. releases which are picked up by A.I.R. Doordarshan does not have news gathering unit as such. It takes from P.T.I., A.I.R., U.N.I., Vartha and Basha. So, most of the P.I.B. releases are made to these agencies and A.I.R. picks it up and that is the news pool of Doordarshan. So, I will have to work out the percentage before I can give you any correct figures.

Closure of power plants

*763. SHRI GUNDAPPA KORWAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) the number of power plants closed down during the last three years due to non-supply of required quantity of coal; and

(b) the reasons for non-supply of coal to these power plants and the corrective steps being taken in that regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF POWER (SHRIMATI URMILABEN CHIMANBHAI PATEL): (a) No power plant was closed down due to non-supply of required quantity of coal during last three years i.e. 1992-93 to 1994-95.

(b) Does not arise.

श्री गुंडप्पा कोरवार : सभापति महोदय, मंत्री महोदय का जो उत्तर है, मैं उससे संतुष्ट हूं । संतुष्ट इसलिए हूं कि मेरा सवाल था—ऐसे कितने पावर प्लांट्स हैं जो नान सप्लाई आफ कोल के कारण बंद हो गए हैं । उन्होंने कहा हैं कि एक भी नहीं है । इसलिए इस उत्तर से मैं खुश हूं । अब मैं जानना चाहता हूं कि इस मुल्क की तरक्की के लिए, औद्योगिक विकास के लिए, कृषि के विकास के लिए, इससे हर घर में दीया जलता है, हर हास्पिटल में आपरेशन के दौरान इलैक्ट्रिसिटी की जरूरत होती है, जिंदगी के हर कदम पर इलैक्ट्रिसिटी बड़ा महत्व रखती है । इसलिए इलैक्ट्रिसिटी का जो उत्पादन है, जिनको कोल सप्लाई किया जाता है वह पावर प्लांट्स कितने हैं और उनका पैदा करने की जो केपेसिटी है वह कितना कम हुआ है कोल की वजह से, यह मैं जानना चाहता हूं ?

श्रीमती उर्मिलाबेन चिमनभाई पटेल : कोल की जो डिमांड थी वह 177